

Appl. No. 10/799,415
Amdt. dated March 14, 2005
Reply to After Final Office Action of January 19, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 3-15 were pending in the above-identified application prior to entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 6, 8, 11, and 14 have been amended. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 6, 8, 11, and 14 are pending in this case. The changes to the claims do not constitute the addition of new matter and full support for the changes may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawal of the objection to the specification and rejections of claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph and of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as set forth in the previous Office action dated August 30, 2004.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his notice that claims 6, 8, 11 and 14 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but are otherwise in condition for allowance.

The term "further" is no longer present in amended claims 11 and 14.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The examiner has rejected claims 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly obvious in light of Ellis-Grosse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,420,358, the '358 patent), in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,723,606, the '606 patent).

In view of the above cancellation of claims 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 it is submitted that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is moot. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.


It is respectfully submitted that the claims have been put in condition for allowance. Notification to this affect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged

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to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss this matter if any questions
should arise upon further examination of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

March 14, 2005
Date


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